

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-HOLT



The season of Lent is set aside as a time of reflection, penitence, prayer and preparation in order that we might fully celebrate the Easter truth, reconciling power and resurrection love of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our theme for Lent 2021 draws upon the biblical number forty, which was meant to mean a big number (similar to “umpteenth”). Lent is literally forty days, but we’re also in a season when we’re asking “how long?": How long until the end of the pandemic? How long until racial justice? How long until authentic unity?

Enclosed you will find a myriad of spiritual disciplines from which to choose for making the most of your Lenten journey. Some may be more helpful for you than others. Choose one. Choose many. Whatever you choose, may the experience deepen your encounter with the Holy and help you live in the “forty” with resilience and hope.





## The Spiritual Discipline of Prayer and Fasting

### Devotional Cards

We're mixing things up this year with a unique devotional. Instead of a traditional booklet, our devotional is in the form of conversation cards. There is one for each day of Lent, and they include scripture, a word for the day, and reflection questions to go deeper. Pull them out at the dinner table to spark family conversation, use them for reflection on the morning commute, keep them at the bedside for evening prayer or use them individually as journal prompts.



### The Prayer Bracelet

Provided in your Lenten Kit, this year's prayer bracelet bears the "mem," the Hebrew symbol for the number 40. Maybe you use your bracelet as a reminder of the prayer you carry these 40 days, maybe it's a reminder of your prayer for that particular day. May it be for all of us a prompt that helps us "pray without ceasing."

## The Walk of Prayer



Jesus said. "I will go and prepare a place for you."

Now is your time for personal prayer *inside the church*. The Fellowship Hall will be open, by appointment only, for personal prayer and devotion during Lent.

All are invited to walk in the peace of our labyrinth. In addition to the labyrinth, its perimeter will feature 3'x2' community coloring posters that serve as interactive Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent, our tactile prayers will take shape, texture and tone, coming together in a colorful art installation.

For the safety of all, we ask that only members of the same household be in the Fellowship Hall at any given time.

[Sign-up here to reserve your time slots for prayer.](#)

## The Fast You Choose

The entire congregation is invited to engage in the biblical tradition of prayer and fasting. Beginning Feb. 24 and throughout the Lenten season, you are encouraged to make Wednesdays a day of fasting, with the opportunity to break your fast with Holy Communion at our mid-week (virtual) Taize worship service. Each of us have different physiologies, so please choose for yourself a healthy fast. Some will be able to fast from all food, some only meat, for some, fasting from food is not appropriate at all, and fasting from something else would be best. In the denial of ourselves, may we come to know more intimately the One who is our true fulfillment.





## The Spiritual Discipline of Service

### Lunch Bag Brigade

Opportunities to serve through face to face, hands-on mission work are limited due to the pandemic, but the need presses on all around us.

You are encouraged to consider making our Lunch Bag Brigade your Lenten spiritual discipline of service. Bring non-refrigerated lunches (i.e. PB&J, fruit, snack, cookie) to the Holt Rd. entrance between 9 and 11 am on Tuesdays. The lunches will then be delivered to our homeless neighbors through Advent House Ministries. Sometimes our most authentic prayers are with hands unfolded, actively serving God! [Click here](#) for A Guide to the Prayerful Discipline of the Lunch Bag Brigade.



### COVID Memorial

Recognizing the need for not just our congregation, but our entire culture to acknowledge and process the monumental loss we have experienced this year due to COVID, as a gift to our community, FPC-Holt is creating a temporary outdoor art installation to serve as a memorial. The concept for the memorial is to create strands of doves (designed by Cheryl Gamber) to be suspended from the bell tower crosses, each dove representing 1,000 lives.

Anyone (from anywhere) who would like to honor the life of one who has died from COVID will be asked to simply provide us the name of their beloved, date of birth and death, and three words that speak to their life. That biography will be displayed on one of the doves as well as our electronic sign. The memorial will be dedicated on March 10, the anniversary of the first COVID case diagnosed in Michigan.

If you would like to contribute to the creation of the memorial by assisting with sewing, assembling or installing the art, [click here or contact the office.](#)





## The Spiritual Discipline of Creative Community

### Congregational Liturgical Art

Every Lenten season we have a congregational liturgical art project through which we honor the creative movement of the Holy Spirit within each of us and contribute to something much larger than ourselves.

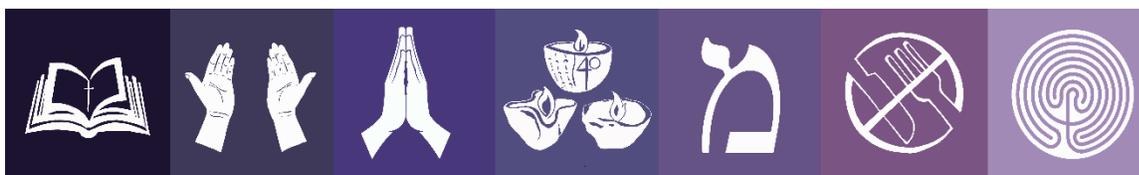
Our project this dark pandemic year will be a gathering of light.

All will have the opportunity to create two clay pinch pots to serve as candle holders. Supplies and written instructions will be provided in your Lenten Kit with an instructional video available on our website on Ash Wednesday.



As part of the creative process, the pots themselves will be fired with the palms of last year's Palm Sunday, marking them with the same ash we use to mark our human frailty and brokenness at the beginning of Lent.

Everyone will be asked to create two candleholders, one for your Sanctuary at Home and one for the church. Each day of Lent an additional candle and holder will be added to the communion table to mark our communal desire and commitment to live faithfully in the "forty" as every candle and holder symbolizes the bright Easter light of Christ that neither human frailty, brokenness or even death can contain.





## The Spiritual Discipline of Worship

All Links for Livestream Worship Services found at [www.fpc-holt.org](http://www.fpc-holt.org)

### ASH WEDNESDAY (6:00pm, February 17)

Join us for our Ash Wednesday virtual worship service which will feature the ritual of ash imposition (ashes provided in Lenten Kits), liturgical movement by Madalyn Gleason, a virtual anthem from our Chancel choir and the sacrament of communion.



### Mid-Week Prayer Service (6:00pm Lent Wednesdays)

Centered around scripture, meditation and the sacrament of communion, these 30 minute, virtual worship services add an intentional, contemplative component to our spiritual pilgrimage through the season. The service offers the music of Taize, musicians from our church family and an incomparable way to break a Wednesday fast.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY (7:00pm, April 1)

On Maundy Thursday, we celebrate Christ's mandate to "love one another as I have loved you" with communion, virtual choir and a Tenebrae service, an ancient order for worship on the last three days of Holy Week with origins in the 4th century. The Latin word "tenebrae" means darkness or shadows - which mark our transition into the Triduum, the sacred three days of Easter. Join us for Livestream worship to affirm our belief that the apparent powers of darkness cannot overwhelm the Light of the world.

## GOOD FRIDAY (Noon, April 2)

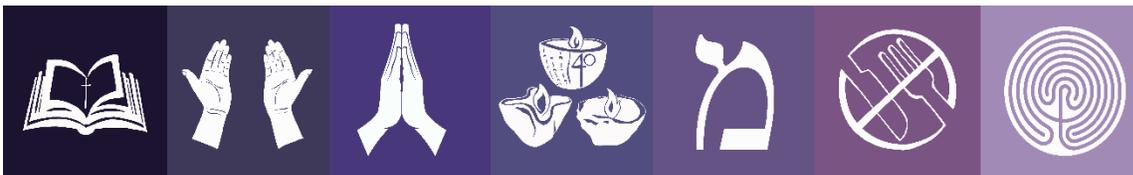
Join your church family for worship on the Livestream as we contemplate and find the "good" in Jesus' death on the cross. This virtual service will feature the Stations of the Cross tradition as we journey with Christ to the cross.

## EASTER SUNDAY (7:00am? and 10:30am, April 4)

If the way is made clear, we will offer two Easter morning services of worship.

If it is safe to do so, we will bundle-up, bring our own chairs and greet the day with a 7:00am outdoor **in-person** Easter Sunrise Worship Service (utilizing all appropriate covid-mitigation protocols) on the North Lawn. This service will not be livestreamed, will only take place if county-wide covid levels allow and we have reached at least [Stage 1 of our Homecoming Plan](#).

Our second worship service of the day, at 10:30, will be livestreamed only with full choir, communion, brass and bells to proclaim loud and long, He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!!





## The Spiritual Discipline of Generosity



**YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH**

— ISAIAH 58

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

### One Great Hour of Sharing

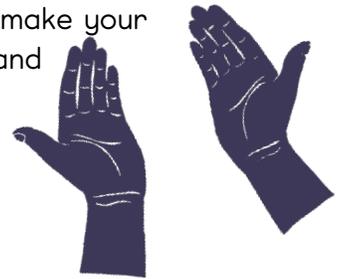
This Lent's One Great Hour of Sharing theme comes from Isaiah 58: "You shall be called repairers of the breach." One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable. Your donation during Lent will go towards, among many other missions, securing clean water for our state-wide and world-wide neighbors.

To share your gifts, simply [click here](#) and choose "One Great Hour of Sharing" or send your share by mail to the church office.

## Hands-On Mission Offering

Each Lenten Sunday worship will highlight a different mission directly engaged by the hands of our congregation. Your generous giving supports the life-changing efforts of our members as they serve our neighbors down the street (i.e. Sycamore School, Advent House, UKirk@MSU, Holt Community Food Bank) and around the world (i.e. ACT Uganda, Tres M Ministerios) You can make your contribution by sending it to the church office or by [clicking here](#) and choosing “Hands-On Mission”.



## The Spiritual Discipline of Study

Mondays Nights 7:00-8:00PM

February 22 ***Preparing for the Spiritual Fast*** Have you ever wondered about the history and tradition of fasting in the Christian faith? If so, join Ben for this exploration into the spiritual benefits of fasting. [Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

March 1, 2, 15, 22 ***Art and Faith*** Our resident liturgical artist, Cheryl Gamber will be your guide for an exploration into Makoto Fujimura’s recently released book “Art and Faith.” Video clips from Mr. Fujimura, himself, will be the catalyst for group conversation and personal reflection. Purchase of the book is encouraged, but not required. [Click here to join on Zoom.](#)





## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



*Palm Sunday*

March 28th

10:30 am

Livestream Worship



*Maundy Thursday*

April 1st

7:00 pm

Livestream Worship



## Good Friday

April 2nd

12:00 pm

Livestream Worship



## Easter Sunday

April 4th

7:00 am

Sunrise Outdoor Worship\*

and

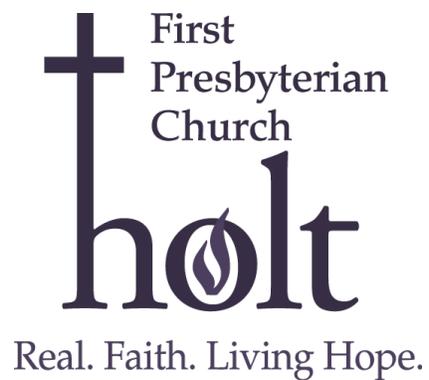
10:30 am

Livestream Worship

\* If Covid conditions allow.



Lenten Kits are available while supplies last, by [clicking here](#) .



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLT  
2021 Aurelius Road, Holt, Michigan 48842  
517.694.5181  
[www.fpc-holt.org](http://www.fpc-holt.org)